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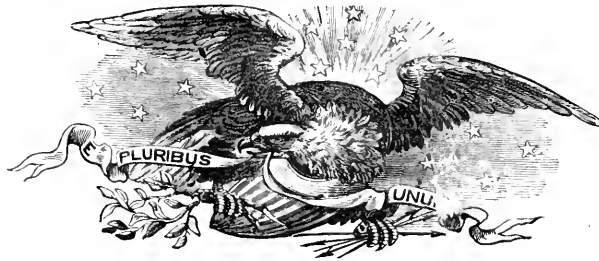
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THE
ORIGINAL
Declaration of Independence



CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES,
AND
MINIATURE SKETCHES OF THE SIGNERS.

NEW-YORK:
SEAVER & COMPANY,

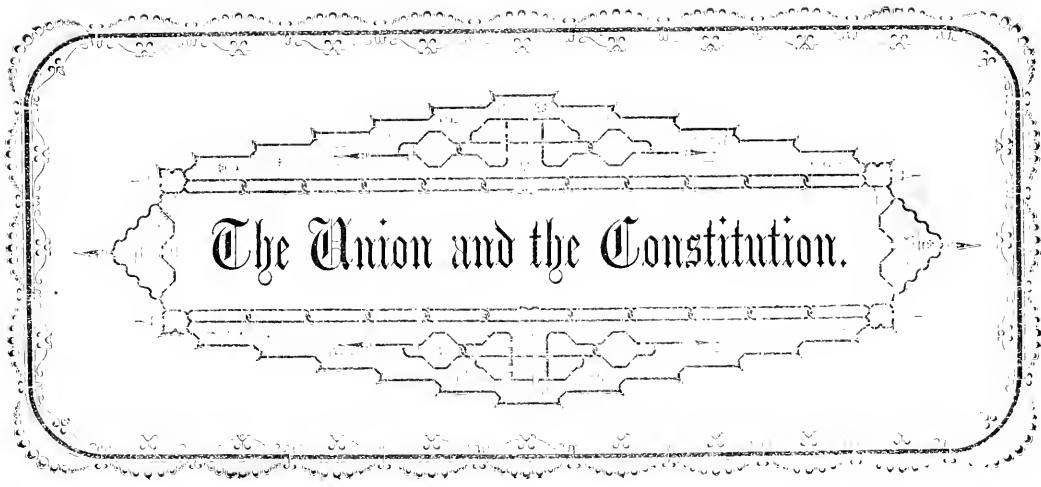
No. 1, Vasey Street, Astor House,
ROSS & TOUSEY, No. 121, Nassau Street; H. DEXTER & COMPANY, No. 113, Nassau Street, HAMILTON
JOHNSON & FARRELLY, No. 27 Ann Street; J. F. FEENE & CO., No. 34, Ann Street,
1861.

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The Union and the Constitution.



In "Continental Congress."

"Resolved, That the consideration of the first Resolution be postponed till the first Monday in July next, and, in the meanwhile, that no time be lost, in case the Congress agree thereto, a committee be appointed to prepare a declaration, to the effect of the first resolution, which is in these words, to wit:— That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown; and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."*

The above Resolution was unanimously adopted, and on the following day a Committee of five: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston,—appointed for its furtherance. The duty was assigned to Mr. Jefferson, and we herewith present a FAC-SIMILE of the ORIGINAL Declaration of Independence, as drawn up by his hand, and submitted by him to the Committee. It received their cordial approval; and, with a few verbal and non-essential alterations made by Dr. Franklin and Mr. Adams, was reported to Congress on the day designated. The character of our work leaves little more to be said by way of introduction, nor need we allude to the debate and amendments which attended its final adoption.

Claiming for the Miniature Biographical Sketches which accompany, no especial merit, we have at the same time aimed to give data and incidents which will be acceptable and of interest to every reader, of those who pledged life and fortune for American Independence, and who first unfurled the standard of Freedom. To enkindle afresh our gratitude for their services—to add yet another tribute to their memory—and to arouse the same patriotic feelings which prompted those "fearless Champions on the side of right—MEN at whose DECLARATION Empires trembled," is the wish of

L. S.

* Introduced by Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, four days previous, and in his eloquent and patriotic advocacy for its adoption, as recorded by Botta, concluded as follows:—"Why then, sir, do we longer delay? Why still deliberate? Let this happy day give birth to an American republic! Let her arise, not to devastate and conquer, but to re-establish the reign of peace and law. The eyes of Europe are fixed upon us; she demands of us a living example of freedom that may exhibit a contrast, in the felicity of the citizen, to the ever-increasing tyranny which desolates her polluted shores. She invites us to prepare an asylum, where the unhappy may find solace, and the persecuted repose. She entreats us to cultivate a propitious soil, where that genuine plant, which first sprang and grew in England, but is now withered by the blasts of Scottish tyranny, may revive and flourish, sheltering under its salubrious and interminable shade all the unfortunate of the human race. If we are not this day wanting in our duty to our country, the names of the American legislators of '76 will be placed by posterity at the side of those of Theseus, of Lycurgus, of Romulus, of Numa, of the three Williams of Nassau, and of all those whose memory has been, and forever will be, dear to virtuous men and good citizens."

While speaking upon the Resolution, a special messenger arrived from Virginia, summoning Mr. Lee to a home of deep affliction. He left Philadelphia the following morning, and before the formation of the Committee, which circumstance fully explains the reason for his not occupying the position assigned to Mr. Jefferson.

Declaration of Independence.

Fac-Simile of the Original Document in the hand writing of Thomas Jefferson.

A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for ^{one} people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to ~~assume among the powers of the earth the station to which the laws of nature and of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to ~~the~~ ^{the} separation.~~ as ^{separate and equal}

We hold these truths to be ^{self-evident} ~~self-evident~~; that all men are created equal & independent; that ^{they are endowed by their creator with equal} ~~from that equal creation they derive~~ ^{rights, that} ~~rights, that~~ ^{these} ~~rights, that~~ ^{rights} are ~~unalienable~~ ^{unalienable}, among ~~which~~ ^{these} are ~~life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness~~; that to secure these ^{rights} ~~rights~~, governments are instituted among men; deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government ~~shall~~ becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, & to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles & organising its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. ^{providence} indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed but

when a long train of abuses & usurpations, [begun at a distinguished period
&] pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to ~~reduce~~ reduce
them ^{under absolute Despotism} ~~to a state of~~, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such
government & to provide new guards for their future security. such has
been the patient sufferance of these colonies, & such is now the necessity
which constrains them to ^{alter} [expunge] their former systems of government.
the history of ^{the} present ^{* thing of Great Britain} ~~is~~, is a history of [unremitting] injuries and
usurpations, [among which, ^{appears no solitary fact} ~~for that of which~~ ^{opened} ~~is~~ to contra-
dict the uniform tenor of the rest, ^{but all} ^{have} ^{opened} ⁱⁿ ^{direct} ^{object} the
establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this, let facts be
submitted to a candid world. [for the truth of which we pledge a faith
yet unsullied by falsehood]

he has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the pub-
-lic good:

he has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate & pressing importance,
unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained,
and when so suspended, he has ^{utterly} neglected ~~attending~~ to attend to them.

he has refused to pass other laws for the accomodation of large districts of people
unless those people would relinquish the right of representation ^{in the legislature}, a right
inestimable to them, & formidable to tyrants only:

he has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, & distant from
the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance
with his measures;

he has dissolved Representative houses repeatedly [& continually] for opposing with
manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people:

~~he has~~ he has refused for a long ^{time after such} ^{disobedience} ^{to} cause others to be elected

whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise, the state remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without & convulsions within:
he has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither; & raising the conditions of new ap-
-propriations of lands:

he has ^{obstructed} ~~ruined~~ the administration of justice ^{by} [totally to cease in some of these ~~states~~ ^{states}] refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

he has made ^{our} judges dependant on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, ^{the} + & payment und a merit of their salaries:

he has erected a multitude of new offices ^{by a self-assumed power} & sent hi-
-ther swarms of officers to harass our people & eat out their substance:

he has kept among us in times of peace ~~the~~ standing armies ^{without the consent of our} ^{legislature} ~~the~~ ^{he} ~~keeps~~ ^{of} ~~war~~ ^{war}

he has affected to render the military independent of & superior to the civil power:

he has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitu-
-tions and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their ^{acts of} pretended ~~acts~~
of legislation, for quartering large bodies of armed troops among us; .

for protecting them by a mock-trial from punishment for any murders
^{which} they should commit on the inhabitants of these states;

for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

for imposing taxes on us without our consent;

for depriving us of the benefits of trial by jury;

for transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences:

for abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government and enlarging its borders, to render it at once an example & fit instrument for introducing the same abo-
-lute into these ~~colonies~~ ^{states}

Abolishing our most ~~valuable~~ ^{valuable} laws
for taking away our charters, [^] & altering fundamentally the forms of our governments,
for suspending our own legislatures & declaring themselves invested with power to
legislate for us in all cases whatsoever;
he has abdicated government here, ^{by declaring us out of his protection & saying war against us.} [withdrawing his governors, & declaring us out
of his allegiance & protection:]

he has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns & destroyed the
lives of our people:

he is at this time transporting large armies of ^{Scotch and other} foreign mercenaries to complete
the works of death, desolation & tyranny, already begun with circumstances
^{scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages and totally}
of cruelty & perfidy, unworthy the head of a civilized nation.
^{he has endeavored to excite domestic insurrections amongst us and has}
he has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian
savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of
all ages, sexes, & conditions [of existence.]

he has incited treasonable insurrections of our fellow-citizens with the
^{allurements of forfeiture & confiscation of our property}
he has waged ^{crude} war against human nature itself, violating it's most sa-
cred rights of life & liberty, in the persons of a distant people who never of-
fended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemis-
phere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This
piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the
Christian king of Great Britain [determined to keep open a market
where MEN should be bought & sold he has prohibited his negative
for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this
^{determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold:}
vexatious commerce; and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact

of distinguished one, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms
amongus, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them,
by murdering the people upon whom he also abused them: thus paying
off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes
which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.]

on every stage of these oppressions" we have petitioned for redress in the most humble
terms: our repeated petitions have been answered ^{only} by repeated injuries. a prince
whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, "is unfit
to be the ruler of a people [who mean to be free] future ages will scarce believe'
that the hardness of one man, adventured within the short compass of twelve years
^{and doing} to ~~the~~ ^{the} foundation so broad & undisguised, for tyranny
only, ~~was ever laid by any prince~~, over a people fostered & fixed in principles
of ~~liberty~~ "freedom"]

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren: we have
warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend a juris-
-diction over [these our states] we have reminded them of the circumstances of
our emigration & settlement here, [no one of which could warrant so strange a
pretension: that these were effected at the expence of our own blood & treasure,
unassisted by the wealth or the strength of Great Britain: that in constituting
indeed our several forms of government, we had adopted one common king, thereby
laying a foundation for perpetual league & amity with them: but that submission to their
parliament was no part of our constitution, nor ever in idea if history may be
credited: and] we ^{have} appealed to their native justice & magnanimity [as well as to] the ties
of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations which [were likely to] ^{incur} interrupt
our ^{connection &} correspondence. ~~connection~~. they too have been deaf to the voice of justice &
of consanguinity. [when occasions ^{we must therefore} have been given them, by the regular course of

their laws, of removing from their councils the disturbers of our harmony, they
 have by their free election re-established them in power. at this very time too they
 are permitting their chief magistrate to send over not only soldiers of our common
 blood, but Scotch & foreign mercenaries to invade ^{destroy us.} ~~us~~. these facts
 have given the last stab to agonizing affection, and manly spirit bids us to re-
 nounce for ever these unfeeling brethren. we must endeavor to forget our former
 love for them, and to hold them as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war,
 in peace friends we might have been a free & a great people together; but a commu-
 nication of grandeur & of freedom it seems is below their dignity, be it so since they
 will have it: the road to ^{to glory} happiness, is open to us too; we will ^{not} ~~leave~~ ^{leave} it
~~apart from them,~~ ^{and} acquiesce in the necessity which ^{do} ~~pronounces~~ our ~~separation~~.
~~separation~~ ^{and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind enemies in war, in peace} friends
 separation!

We therefore the representatives of the United States of America or General Con-
<sup>appealing to the wisdom, justice of the world for the best rule of our inter-
 -course as com- bled,</sup> do in the name & by authority of the good people of these [States]

[reject and renounce all allegiance & subjection to the kings of Great Britain.
 & all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under them; we utterly
 dissolve & break off all political connection which may ~~have~~ ^{have} heretofore ^{sub-}
 sisted between us & the people or parliament of Great Britain; and finally
 we do assert and declare these colonies to be free and independant states,
 and that as free & independant states they shall ~~have~~ ^{full} power to levy
 war conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, & to do all other
 acts and things which independant states may of right do. And for the
 support of this declaration] we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our
 fortunes, & our sacred honour.

John Hancock

Rob Morris	Lewis Morris
Benjamin Rush	
Benj. Franklin	Samuel Chase
	James Wilson
John Morton	Geo Ross
Gov Hooper	
Joseph Hewes	Rich Stockton
John Penn	Jos Witherspoon
Wm Paten	
Thos Stone	Chas Hopkinson
	John Hart
Geo Taylor	Abra Clark
Wm Floyd	Button Gwinnett
Chas. Livingston	Lyman Hall
Sam. Lewis	Geo Walton

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE SIGNERS.

MATTHEW THORNTON was born in Ireland in 1714, from whence his parents emigrated while in his infancy, and settled in Worcester, Massachusetts. He received a liberal education, and at a comparatively early age took rank among the first physicians of his State. Possessing the full confidence and patronage of the home government, he nevertheless voluntarily surrendered them by his opposition to the existing abuses. His popularity with the people was unbounded, and on the abdication of Governor Wentworth, he was elected his successor. Upon the organization of the Provincial Congress he was chosen Speaker of the House, and in the same year was appointed a delegate to the Continental Congress. Dr. Thornton resigned public life in 1782, and retired to his farm in Exeter, where he was blessed with many years, and lived to see his country in the height of prosperity. Up to his eighty-second year he was never ill a day, but at this time was attacked with whooping cough, from which he never fully recovered. Dr. Thornton died in 1805, at the age of eighty-nine years.

SAMUEL ADAMS (next to Hancock the most obnoxious "rebel" of the revolution) was born in Boston, Massachusetts, September 22, 1722. He descended from Pilgrim stock, and in early life enjoyed the advantages of wealth and influence. In 1763 he began to boldly assert the rights of the colonies, and was among the first who advocated resistance to the oppressions of the crown. In 1775 Mr. Adams was chosen a representative for Boston in the General Assembly, and during the remainder of his life—near forty years—occupied positions of high honor and responsibility. He was among those who secretly matured the plan of proposing a General Congress; was one of the five delegates appointed to that body in 1774, and continued a member of Congress until 1781. Soon after retiring from Congress, he was chosen to the first positions in his native State, and up to the close of his life was annually re-elected. Mr. Adams died October 5, 1803, in the eighty-second year of his age. There are many incidents in the history of this self-sacrificing and indefatigable patriot of rare interest.

ROBERT TREAT PAINE—This distinguished patriot was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1731. He was one of the most successful students of Harvard College, which he entered at the age of fourteen years. During his early life he visited England, and upon his return entered the ministry, which, however, was soon relinquished for the legal profession, and of which he soon became a distinguished member. Prominent and uncompromising among those who denounced the abuses of the home government, he early buckled on the armor of Revolution, and in 1768 boldly assumed his responsibilities. From being elected a member of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts in 1774, he continued uninterruptedly in the public service. As a legislator and jurist he was equally successful, and faithfully discharged the trust and confidence reposed in him by his countrymen up to the close of his eventful life, which occurred in May, 1814, at the ripe age of eighty-four years. Mr. Paine retired from the Bench of the Supreme Court of his native State about ten years previous to his death.

ELBRIDGE GERRY was born in Marblehead, Massachusetts, on the 17th July, 1744. The son of an opulent merchant, he enjoyed all the advantages of early culture, and was a distinguished graduate of Harvard College in 1762. Soon after this he entered upon mercantile life, and not only amassed a fortune, but by his unbending integrity of character secured the highest regard and confidence of his fellow citizens. Active in his opposition to the increasing injustice of Great Britain, he was elected a member of the first Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, and was a member of the same at the time of the battle of Bunker Hill—the night preceding which, he and General Warren slept in the same bed. In 1776 Mr. Gerry was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, and continued in places of high trust and honor through life. His death occurred very unexpectedly, November 23d, 1814, at which time he was discharging his duties as Vice President of the United States. He was interred in the Congressional Cemetery at Washington, and a monument erected to his memory by Congress.

STEPHEN HOPKINS was born at Scituate, Rhode Island, March 7, 1707. At the age of twenty-four years he left the family, removed to Providence, and engaged in mercantile business. The year following he was elected a representative in the General Assembly, of which body he continued a member for nearly twenty years, and most of the time, without a competitor, as Speaker. *May we not, with propriety and sincerity, pray for similar fate to our State and our National Legislature.* In 1774 he was chosen Chief Justice of the Colony. At an early day he boldly opposed the abuses of the home government, in which, we need not say, he was more firm than his singular appearing signature to the Declaration of Independence might indicate, and which was attributable to a physical affliction. Few men of his time enjoyed a greater degree of public confidence, and the stern integrity manifested in every discharge of duty, needs no proof that the honors were most wisely bestowed. Mr. Hopkins died July 19, 1785, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

WILLIAM ELLERY was born at Newport, Rhode Island, December 23d, 1727. He enjoyed unusual advantages in early life, and at the age of twenty years received the highest honors of Harvard College. For nearly a quarter of a century he practiced law with distinguished success, and from which he acquired a fortune. He was ever foremost in asserting and maintaining all the just rights of the colonies, and from the commencement to the close of the revolutionary struggle, discharged with wisdom and fidelity the responsible trusts delegated to him. As a reward for these services, it was his fortune to witness a nation in the full enjoyment of blessings for which he had pledged his word and fortune. Mr. Ellery may be styled the "classic" signer of the Declaration of Independence. On the morning of his death, he perused Tully's Offices, and died with Cæsar in his hands—which event occurred, while sitting in his chair, February 15, 1820, in the seventy-third year of his age. Mr. Ellery was the first Collector of Newport, in which office he continued about forty years.

ROGER SHERMAN was born in Newton, Massachusetts, April 19, 1721. On the death of his father, and when but nineteen years of age, the support of a large family devolved upon him, all of which attendant duties were faithfully discharged. He served a regular apprenticeship, as shoemaker, in his native town; after acquiring which, traveled on foot, with wit and fortune in his hand, to New Milford, Connecticut, where he employed himself industriously at his trade as a journeyman. Mr. Sherman was one of the remarkable men of the Revolution. With scarcely an opportunity or advantage in early life for self-culture, he was called from his humble position not only to the aid of his native State, but occupied a prominent position in Congress among the patriots of the Revolution. He was one of the Committee appointed to draft the Declaration of Independence, a member of the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, afterwards became a distinguished jurist, and at the time of his death, July 23d, 1795, was a member of the United States Senate.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON was born at Windham, Connecticut, July 24, 1732. His father was a moderate farmer of his day, and we find nothing to mention of especial note until 1764, at which time the son occupied an honorable position in the legal profession at Norwich, and from which we may properly date his public life; afterwards so distinguished—upon the bench, in Congress, and as Governor of Connecticut. His devoted patriotism, and unbending integrity, secured the unanimous confidence of his State, of which body he was chosen President in 1779, then the highest office in the nation. In consequence of impaired health he was obliged to resign this position, much to the regret, and with the reluctant assent of Congress. Mr. Huntington succeeded John Jay as Minister Plenipotentiary to Spain, and in negotiating a treaty of amity and commerce with that nation. In 1786 he was elected Governor of Connecticut, and continued in the same office until the time of his death, which event occurred on the 6th of January, 1798, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS was born at Lebanon, Connecticut, April 18, 1731. At the age of twenty years he was a distinguished graduate of Harvard College, and commenced the study of theology with his father, who, for more than half of a century, was pastor of a Congregational Society in Lebanon. He soon after abandoned theology, and entered upon mercantile life in his native town, from which he amassed a fortune. At the age of twenty-five, Mr. Williams was chosen a member of the Connecticut Assembly, and was continued a member of that body forty-five years. He was elected a delegate to the General Congress in 1775, and was an ardent supporter of the Declaration of Independence. During the darkest and most trying period of the great struggle, and when the currency of the country had become almost valueless, he at one time exchanged a large sum in specie for the same amount of Continental money, with a view to obtain supplies for the army. In 1804 Mr. Williams retired from public life, from the infirmities of age. He died August 2, 1811, at the age eighty-one years.

OLIVER WOLCOTT was born at Windsor, Connecticut, November 26, 1736. He entered Yale College at the age of seventeen years, graduated with the usual honors in 1757, and in the same year entered upon the study of medicine with a distinguished teacher. Soon after completing his medical course, he abandoned the same for public life—which afterwards became so popular—in the field, upon the bench, and as a legislator. Few men enjoyed a greater degree of confidence and respect, and during the remainder of his life he unintermittingly occupied the most honorable positions within their gift. First among the opponents to unjust British rule, he early advocated an independent government, and lived and withstood his countrymen in the full enjoyment of that for which he had pledged his honor, fortune, and his life. His death occurred December 1, 1797, and while serving as Governor of his native State. The father of Mr. Wolcott was also a prominent man of his day—having occupied the position of Major-General, Judge, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor of Connecticut.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE SIGNERS.

WILLIAM FLOYD was born at Setauket, Long Island, December 17, 1734. His father was one of the most wealthy farmers in the country, in which calling the son continued up to 1774, when he was chosen a member of the Continental Congress, and from which time forward he occupied a prominent position in public life. Few men suffered greater pecuniary loss from the Revolution, and for nearly seven years his estate was in possession of English troops, and his family living in New York. Floyd was several times re-elected to Congress, and was among the most influential of its members. In 1778 he consented for the last time to a seat in Congress, and upon the expiration of the term for which he was then chosen, retired from active public life. His death occurred August 4, 1821, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. We can hardly pass the name of William Floyd with this simple reference to the services which he rendered during the War, and which entitled him to a most prominent place among the pure patriots who counted no sacrifice they could make for their country.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON was born at Albany, N. Y., January 15, 1716. He entered Yale College at an early age, and graduated with distinguished honors in 1737. Immediately after leaving College, he located permanently in New York, and soon became one of its most successful commercial merchants. His public life may be dated from 1764, when he was elected Alderman of the "East Ward," at which time Wall street was the north bounds of the "town," and its entire population only about eleven thousand. Mr. Livingston was a member of the first Continental Congress, one of the Commissioners to represent the Colonies to the mother country, and among the most firm and influential patriots of the revolution. For some time previous, and at the time of leaving home to take his seat in the Congress of 1778, he had been afflicted with disease of a most fatal character, and he accordingly took a final leave of his family. His presentment soon became a reality, by his sudden death, on the twelfth of June following, in the sixty-second year of his age.

FRANCIS LEWIS was born in Landaf, Wales, in the year 1713. After the completion of his education at Westminster, he served an apprenticeship with a London merchant, and upon attaining his majority emigrated to this country, and entered at once upon commercial life, which was very successful. His public life dates from a seat in the Continental Congress, from which time forward he was regarded as an able legislator, and distinguished himself with equal credit in the field. During the possession of Long Island by the British, he not only suffered great pecuniary loss from the destruction of his property, but was made to feel in a brutally more keenly the consequences of the close confinement for months of a beloved wife, during which time she was denied the ordinary comforts of life, and subjected to treatment which ruined her constitution and resulted in her premature death. Mr. Lewis retired from public life in 1778, and enjoyed the esteem and gratitude of his countrymen up to its close, which occurred December 30th, 1803, in the nineteenth year of his age.

LEWIS MORRIS was born at Morrisania, New York, in the year 1726. He entered Yale College at the age of sixteen, and four years after graduated with the usual honors. He early espoused the rights of the colonies—boldly denounced the abuses of the home government—and was foremost among the noble band who pledged fortune and life in the great struggle. Studying the character of Mr. Morris, we find it difficult to confine ourselves to the limits of our outline sketch, and pass his name with this brief allusion to the pure and disinterested patriotism by which he was ever governed. He voluntarily retired from Congress in 1777, but continued in the public service of his native state until the restoration of peace, when he retired to the quiet and happiness of agriculture, and which he continued to enjoy up to the close of his life. He died in January 1798, aged seventy-two years. Mr. Morris was succeeded in Congress by his brother, Governor Morris, and upon the election of the latter, received a vote of thanks for his "long and faithful services rendered to the Colony of New York."

RICHARD STOCKTON was born at Princeton, New Jersey, October 1, 1730. He enjoyed all the advantages which wealth could secure, in his early life and education, and at the age of eighteen years, upon leaving Princeton College with its usual honors, entered upon the study of law—the profession of which he was admitted in 1754—and in which he rapidly rose to distinction and eminence. He enjoyed especial honors from the King, and possessing ample fortune, his patriotism and unflinching devotion to the Revolutionary cause are the more to be venerated. While in Congress, Mr. Stockton was among its most influential members, and during the great struggle experienced reverses and sufferings of the most trying character. He was for a time imprisoned in the common jail at Amberg, and afterwards confined in the old Provost prison in the city of New York, then situated in the Park, where the present Hall of Records now stands, and during his confinement subjected to the most cruel treatment. Mr. Stockton died February 28, 1781, in the fifty-first year of his age.

JOHN WITHERSPOON was born at Yester, Scotland, February 5, 1722. He was a lineal descendant of the great reformer, John Knox. At the age of fourteen years, he entered the University of Edinburgh, pursuing a regular theological course of study—graduated at the age of twenty-two years, a licensed preacher, and soon became a popular divine in his native country. After repeated solicitations he finally accepted the Presidency of New Jersey College, and on the 14th day of August, 1769, entered upon the duties of that position. Deeply sympathizing in the revolutionary movement, he for a few years retired from ministerial duties, during which time distinguished himself as a patriot and statesman. Dr. Witherspoon continued in political life until 1783, when he again returned to his sacred calling, and in which he continued up to the day of his death, notwithstanding he was afflicted with total blindness during the last two years of his ministrations. Dr. Witherspoon died on the 10th day of November, 1794, in the seventy-third year of his age.

FRANCIS HOPKINSON was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in the year 1737. His parents were both members of the most aristocratic families in England, his mother, a daughter of the Bishop of Worcester, and the family of his father equally distinguished. We pass over his early life, in which he enjoyed every advantage of cultivation, education and refinement. He was in due course of time admitted a legal practitioner, and soon acquired success in his profession. Like many other true patriots of his day, he voluntarily surrendered the enjoyment of favors and position from the home government, and in its stead placed his all in jeopardy for the public good. He was elected to the General Congress in 1770, and for a number of years following was among its most active and useful business members. Mr. Hopkinson may be ranked as the poet and wit of his time. In State as well as in national affairs he occupied positions of the highest responsibility up to the day of his death, which event occurred suddenly in May, 1791, at the comparatively early age of fifty-three years.

JOHN HART was born in New Jersey. In common with all other biographers we are unable to state the year with accuracy. He was among the most fair and intelligent farmers of his State, but from the year 1766 boldly denounced the abuses of the home government, and from this time forward devoted his efforts and possessions to the service of his country. Mr. Hart was a member of the first Continental Congress, and continued among the most unflinching and influential patriots of the Revolution up to the day of his death, which occurred in 1780, and before the termination of the glorious struggle. Brief as are our "sketches," we cannot do less than assign for the name of John Hart a prominent place among the pure and most devoted patriots of the Revolution. No name is appended to the Declaration of Independence which merits more our veneration. The death of Mr. Hart occurred at the gloomiest period of the War, but he never for a moment doubted the final issue—and his last prayer was for the Divine blessing and protection to his country.

ABRAHAM CLARK was born at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, February 15, 1726. He was the only child of a frugal farmer, but in consequence of a feeble constitution left the plough early in life, and turned his attention to surveying and the study of law. His popularity with the people soon secured him a prominent position, and although enjoying the official patronage of the home government, he was among the first to denounce its abuses. Mr. Clark was elected in 1776 to the Continental Congress, and continued in the public service up to the time of his sudden death, from *coup de soleil* which occurred in June 1794. He cheerfully suffered much pecuniary loss from the Revolution; his family were driven from their home, and two of his sons experienced all the horrors of the Jersey prison-ship. With the premature death of Mr. Clark, although at a comparatively advanced age, let us here allude to the fact: that in length of days, and physical as well as mental development, no such body of men ever assembled as those who composed the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

ROBERT MORRIS was born in Lancashire, England, in January, 1733. He received every advantage of wealth in his early culture and education, and upon attaining his majority, entered upon mercantile life, at Philadelphia. The great question of American freedom at this time engaged the public attention, and for its accomplishment, Mr. Morris consecrated his possessions. He was the financier of the Revolution—enjoyed the especial confidence of Washington—and his name the first that was mentioned upon the formation of his cabinet. Upon declining the position, and in a private interview, General Hamilton was decided upon as Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Morris was a prominent member of the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, and freedom at this time engaged the public attention, and for its adoption was chosen a Senator in Congress. At the end of the term, he declined a re-election, and with it closed his distinguished public life. Mr. Morris married a sister of Bishop White, the father of the American Church. His death occurred May 8, 1806, in the seventy-third year of his age.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE SIGNERS.

BENJAMIN RUSH was born in Berberry, Pennsylvania, December 24th, 1746. He entered Princeton College in 1765, and when sixteen years old, took his degree. After studying medicine with Dr. Robinson, of Philadelphia, he visited Europe, attending there the best hospitals and medical institutions, and returned home in 1768, bearing with him a diploma conferred on him at Edinburgh, and the title "Doctor of Medicine." He commenced practice in Philadelphia with the greatest success, and rapidly gained a world-wide reputation for medical skill. Dr. Rush was elected to Congress in 1776, and signed the Declaration. In 1793 the yellow fever began its fatal work in Philadelphia. Dr. Rush remained at his post and acted the part of a good Samaritan, displaying a self-sacrificing devotion to the welfare of the community. "I will remain, if I remain alone," was his motto, and nobly did he act upon it. On the 19th of April, 1813, he paid the debt of nature, expiring in the midst of friends and the lamentations of a whole nation, at the age of sixty-seven years.

JOHN MORTON, of Swedish descent, was born near Philadelphia in 1724. He received a good education, and at an early age showed a proficiency in study, quite remarkable. In 1761 he entered public life, being chosen a Justice of the Peace, a member of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania and a Speaker of the House. He was a delegate in 1765 to the "Stamp Act Congress," and in 1766 High Sheriff of the county where he resided. In 1774-1775 he was a member of the General Congress, in which latter year he signed the declaration. He exhibited profound talents in every office he sustained, and a wonderful activity in labor. Mr. Morton died in April, 1777, in the fifty-fourth year of his age, near the eve of our great national deliverance. While in Congress the delegation then present from Pennsylvania was equally divided in opinion upon the question of Independence, and Mr. Morton was called upon to give the casting vote that was to secure the unanimous adoption of the Declaration by the Colonies. He met the question with firmness, and by his vote made the great issue.

GEORGE CLYMER was born in Philadelphia in 1739. He entered early on a commercial life, and continued in the same till 1782. In 1755 he was appointed by Congress one of the continental treasurers, and in 1776 elected to the General Congress, and signed the Declaration. In 1782 he united with Robert Morris in establishing a bank in Philadelphia, and became one of its directors. He also, in company with Edward Rutledge, visited the South to procure funds for government use, and on his return removed his family to Philadelphia. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and facilitated the adoption of many wise measures, one of which, the penitentiary system, entitles him to lasting remembrance. Mr. Clymer was a member of the Convention for framing a Federal Constitution, and was appointed Supervisor of the revenue for the State of Pennsylvania. In 1796 he aided in negotiating a treaty with the Indians in Georgia, which was his last public act. His death occurred on the 24th of January, 1816, aged seventy-four years.

JAMES SMITH was born in Ireland in 1729, emigrating to this country when but a child. His early education was excellent, and his intellect mature in mere boyhood. He chose the law for a profession, and removed westward in Pennsylvania, settling in a wilderness, where he found no rivals in his profession and few dealers in his trade. He finally became a resident of York and married a Miss Amos of Newcastle, Delaware. In the beginning of our national struggle, Mr. Smith cordially acted with the Patriots and warmly espoused their cause. He was chosen a delegate to the Pennsylvania Convention, which met in 1775 and acted on several important committees. Afterwards he became a member of the General Congress and signed the Declaration. In 1776 Mr. Smith declined a re-election to Congress, but finally obeyed the voice of duty, and resumed his seat. The next year he vacated it, to resume his professional business and to serve a term in the Pennsylvania Legislature. He died on the 11th day of July, 1806, at the patriarchal age of ninety years.

GEORGE TAYLOR was born in Ireland in 1716 and came to this country, when twenty years of age. After a short apprenticeship in an iron manufactory at Durham, Pennsylvania, he erected out of funds brought him in a matrimonial alliance, large iron works at Lehigh, Northumberland Co., Pa. Acquiring an immense popularity by his business ability and gentlemanly qualities, he was elected to the provincial General Assembly in 1764, where he served for five consecutive years. In 1775 he was sent to the Provincial Congress, and was appointed on the Committee to draw up instructions for the delegates to the General Congress which convened in May of the same year. These instructions prohibited the Delegates of Pennsylvania from favoring a separation from the mother country; but the current of public opinion was so strongly in favor of independence, that in June following, the prohibition was removed and the delegates left untrammelled in their future action. After serving one year in Congress he retired from public life. His death occurred February 22, 1781.

JAMES WILSON was born in Scotland and emigrated to this country in 1766. His first business was that of a teacher in Philadelphia, and subsequently the legal profession became his choice. In 1775 he was chosen a member of the General Congress, and retained the office until 1777. As Colonel of a regiment in his State in 1774, he added much to the strength of the militia and showed considerable skill in military tactics. In 1778 he formed a treaty with the Indians of Pennsylvania. In 1780 he was appointed Advocate General of the French nation in the United States, and re-appointed in 1781. In 1782 he was chosen again a member of Congress and counselor in the difficulty between Pennsylvania and Connecticut, concerning the Wyoming domain. In 1786 he again took his place in Congress, and formed one of the Convention for drafting a Federal Constitution, also of the Pennsylvania Convention of 1788. The President appointed Mr. Wilson in 1789 one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. He died the twenty-eighth day of August, 1798, aged fifty-six years.

GEORGE ROSS was born in Newcastle, Delaware, in 1730. After receiving a liberal education, he entered upon the practice of law, at the age of twenty-one, and established himself at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Mr. Ross was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1768 and re-elected for successive years. He was chosen to the General Congress in 1774-1777 inclusive, and signed the Declaration on the second of August, 1776. He was pronounced in his mediation with the Indian tribes, and universally esteemed as an able and philanthropic man. In 1780 he was appointed a judge of the Court of Admiralty for Pennsylvania, in which office he continued to the close of his life. Mr. Ross was among the first who advocated resistance to the unjust acts of the home government, and although extremely moderate in expressing his opinions, was at the same time among the most decided and uncompromising in his demands for a redress of the grievances. He enjoyed the unmeasured respect and confidence of the people to the time of his death, which event occurred in July, 1780.

CESAR RODNEY was born at Dover, Delaware, in 1730. His parents were of English descent and of high position. On the death of his father, Mr. Rodney inherited the paternal estate and settled upon it. He was a member of the "Stamp Act Congress" of 1765 of the Provincial Assembly in 1769, and speaker of the latter until 1774. He took his seat in the General Congress of 1774, and acted on the committee for drawing up a declaration of Rights. In 1776 he was re-elected to Congress and appointed Brigadier-General of his province. In 1777 he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court, which honor he declined. He was chosen as a member of the Supreme Court, which honor he declined. He was chosen as a military general, and successful in his encounters with the enemy, whom he conquered at various points. No Colony was more faithful and devoted to the Revolution than Delaware, and no member of the ever memorable Congress which adopted the Declaration of Independence was more zealous and unflinching in its maintenance than Cesar Rodney. He suffered many years from a disease of the most fatal character, which terminated in 1783.

GEORGE READ was born in Maryland in 1734 of Irish parentage. He enjoyed every advantage of wealth and influence, and after completing his education, at the age of seventeen, began the study of law with a barrister in Philadelphia, and was admitted to the bar in 1753; settling in 1754 at Newcastle, Delaware, where he commenced practice. At the age of twenty-nine Mr. Read was appointed Attorney General for the "lower counties on the Delaware," of Kent, Sussex and Newcastle. In 1774 he was elected to the Continental Congress, and in 1776 a member of the General Assembly of Delaware, to which office he was re-elected for several successive years. In 1774 he was a member of the General Congress, as also in 1775 and 1776. He signed and earnestly maintained the Declaration of Independence and was President of the Delaware Convention for forming a State Constitution. Mr. Read was chosen Chief Justice of his native State in 1793, which station he continued to occupy up to the autumn of 1798, when a sudden illness closed his useful life.

THOMAS MCKEAN was born in New London, Pennsylvania, in 1733. He was associated with George Read at a school of the Rev. Dr. Allison's, and like him adopted the law as a profession. At twenty-one he was admitted to the bar, and in 1756 appointed a Deputy Attorney General of his province. In 1757 was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and was Clerk of the House of Assembly of Delaware. His patriotic career includes his action in the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, the General Congress of 1774-1783, and his signing the Declaration of 1776. He was elected Chief Justice of Pennsylvania for twenty successive years, and Governor of the State for three terms or nine years. His last public act, was to preside at a meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia at the time the city was threatened with an attack by the British. While in Congress, and upon the resignation of Oliver Wolcott, Mr. McKean was chosen President, and upon resigning the position, received the thanks of that body. He died June 24th, 1817, aged eighty-four years.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE SIGNERS.

SAMUEL CHASE was born in Somerset county, Maryland, April 17, 1741. At eighteen years of age he commenced the study of law at Annapolis, at twenty was admitted to practice before the Mayor's Court, and at twenty-two became a member of the bar. His legal career was a most successful one and only surpassed by his labors in the cause of Freedom. At the age of twenty years Mr. Chase was chosen a member of the Provincial Assembly, and in 1774 was elected as a delegate to the Continental Congress besides acting on the "Committee of Correspondence" in his colony. In 1776 Mr. Chase was appointed one of a committee with Franklin and Carroll to go on a mission to Canada for the purpose of effecting a concurrence of that province with the action of other English colonies. He continued in Congress until 1778, meanwhile signing the Declaration of Independence. In 1798 Mr. Chase was chosen by Washington a judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, which office he held for fifteen years. This truly great and good man died June 19, 1811.

THOMAS STONE was born at the Pointon Manor, Maryland, in 1743. He had a good classical education, and after the study of law for a few years, entered upon his practice in 1764 at Annapolis. His attention was early directed to the colonial cause, and in obedience to the behests of duty, he consented to serve in the General Congress of 1774 and 1775. He not only signed the Declaration, but aided in framing the Articles of Confederation (adopted in 1777) and in advocating their justness. Mr. Stone was an influential member of Congress, (and once its President,) until 1785, when he retired to his home, Port Tobacco, where he died, aged forty-five years, on the fifth of October, 1787. The people of Maryland at first manifested more reluctance in severance from the mother country than either of the other Colonies, and as a consequence, Mr. Stone and his colleagues were debarred from acting favorably upon the measure by the instructions of the Colonial Convention. These obstacles, however, were removed in June, 1776, and the Declaration at once received his most cordial support.

WILLIAM PACA was born at Wye Hall, Maryland, in 1740. He enjoyed every advantage, and entered Philadelphia College, where he graduated with high honor. He was admitted to the bar in 1760, and in 1761 chosen a member of the Provincial Assembly. By his polite conduct in the revolutionary period, he acquired a wide popularity with the people who elected him to the Continental Congress of 1774-1778, advanced him to a Chief Justiceship of the U. S. Supreme Court in 1778, and to the Chief Judiciary in Maryland. His best duties he fully discharged, when he was appointed Governor of Maryland. After a service of one year in this capacity, he retired to private life, and died in 1799, aged sixty years. While in Congress Mr. Paca was also present from voting for the Declaration of Independence until after the removal of Colonial instructions in June, 1776, at which time he boldly advocated its adoption, and pledged Maryland for its maintenance. It is worthy of note that on the very day he gave his vote of approval, he was again unanimously re-elected.

CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON, one of the most prominent revolutionary patriots, was of Irish descent and born September 20th, 1737. When eight years old, he entered the Jesuit College of St. Omers, where he remained until 1751. Thence he was sent to Rheims, where he spent a year, and to the College of Louis le Grand, from which he graduated in 1754. He began the study of law at Bourges and pursued this branch of study at Paris and London. After eight years residence in London he returned to Maryland, immediately espousing, on his arrival, the cause of the colonies. Mr. Carroll was among the most influential Members of Congress, and unhesitatingly consecrated his life and his immense fortune to the cause of Independence. It was his happiness to see his country rank among the first nations of the earth. Mr. Carroll passed the last thirty years of his life in most happy retirement, and on the 14th day of November, 1832, after surviving several years all the others of the immortal band who signed the Declaration of Independence, calmly passed from earth.

GEORGE WYTHE was born in Elizabeth County, Virginia, in 1726. After enjoying good educational privileges, he entered upon the practice of law in 1757, attaining a high reputation for legal ability. Mr. Wythe was a member for some time of the House of Burgesses in Virginia, and co-operated in that Assembly with Patrick Henry and others in their "godlike" action in behalf of Freedom. In 1776 he was elected to the General Congress, in 1780 to the National Convention for framing a Constitution, and subsequently served two terms in the United States Senate. Mr. Wythe was an example of strict integrity and undoubted patriotism. The trusts imposed upon him by the people, well indicated their regard for him. After a long life of usefulness, Mr. Wythe died June 6th, 1806, aged eighty-one years. The event was received by the whole nation with the most profound sorrow, and which was heightened from the consideration that it resulted from poison, at the hands of a near relative, and who was afterwards tried for the act, but not convicted.

RICHARD HENRY LEE was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, January 20th, 1732. His education was begun in England, at a school in Wakefield, Yorkshire, and completed in the "Old Dominion." During his youth and early life he devoted himself to literary pursuits, and was distinguished for his scholarly attainments. He organized the first association in the Colonies opposed to the Crown, was one of the first "Committee of Correspondence" and a chief advocate of the cause of Independence. Mr. Lee was a delegate to the Congress of 1776, and first introduced a resolution for a separation from the mother country. As a member of Congress, he was most actively employed, being placed on the most important committees and appointed to various offices. On his retirement from his seat in Congress, in 1784, the thanks of the House were publicly offered him "for the faithful services he had rendered his country." He was appointed first U. S. Senator of Virginia under the new Constitution,—with which he closed his distinguished public life. His death occurred June 19, 1794.

BENJAMIN HARRISON was born in Berkeley, Virginia, but the day of his birth is not certainly known. His ancestors were among the first colonial settlers, emigrating to this country from England in 1640. Mr. Harrison took a partial course of study in William and Mary College, and began his political career as a member of the House of Burgesses in 1764. He was also elected speaker of the Assembly for many years. He rose to Governor of the province, perceiving in Mr. Harrison the qualities of a statesman and the promise of high attainments in life, offered him at one time a seat in his executive council, which was peremptorily declined. Mr. Harrison was one of the delegates from Virginia to the Continental Congress of 1774 and signed the Declaration on the second of August, 1776. In 1782 he was elected Governor of Virginia, and after serving thus for two terms, he retired to private life, being called again to the speakership of the House of Burgesses, he resumed that office once more, and also the Governor's chair in 1791. He died during the same week, in April 1791.

THOMAS NELSON, JR. was born in Yorktown, Virginia, Dec. 26th, 1738. In his fifteenth year he was sent to England to be educated, and after a brief course of study with a private tutor, entered Trinity College, Cambridge, having for his preceptor Dr. Porteus, afterwards Bishop of London. In 1761 he returned to America, and in 1774 made his first appearance in public life as a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia. The same year he served as a delegate to the first General Convention held at Lancaster and to the General Congress. In Congress he was a zealous advocate of American freedom, "by deeds, not by words." He encouraged the formation of corps of volunteer militia in his own State, and was a highly commended regiment, while Patrick Henry and Richard Lee had similar military posts. Mr. Nelson succeeded Jefferson as Governor of Virginia, and in the siege at Yorktown headed a body of militia and bombarded even his own mansion, in which the British officers were then domiciled. On the fourth of January, 1789, he died, aged fifty years.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE, a younger brother of Richard Henry Lee, was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, October 14th, 1734. He was educated under the direction of a Scottish clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Craig, and attained a noble distinction as a scholar. Inspired with the same patriotic views as those of his brother, he was early called into public life, and in 1765 was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses. He continued in the same until 1772, when he married and removed to Richmond. He represented that county in the House until 1775, when he was elected to the Continental Congress. In 1775 he resigned that office and returned to his home. His public career was not distinguished for anything great in speech or brilliant in action, but for its exemplary industry, sound judgment and unwavering principle. The last days of Mr. Lee were spent not in the accumulation of wealth, but in the liberal bestowment of his fortune upon the poor and every good enterprise. He died in April, 1797, aged sixty-three years.

GARTER BRAXTON was born at Newington, King and Queen's county, Virginia, September 10th, 1736. He was educated at William and Mary College, and after marrying a Miss Robinson, of Middlesex county, proceeded to England. In 1760 he returned to America, and married a second wife, the daughter of the royal Receiver General of customs in Virginia. Despite his alliance with royalty by marriage, Mr. Braxton was one of the first to favor the cause of American freedom. He was present in the House of Burgesses in 1765, there heard the resolutions and speech of Patrick Henry respecting the Stamp Act, and boldly voted in their support. He was also a member of the Virginia Convention, and in 1769 one of the "eighty nine" who recommended on the dissolution of that Assembly, a Convention of the people at Williamsburgh. This Convention met and elected delegates to the Continental Congress, of whom Mr. Braxton was one. He also succeeded Peyton Randolph in Congress in 1775, and signed the Declaration the next term. He died October 10th, 1797.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE SIGNERS.

WILLIAM HOOPER was born in Boston, Mass., June 17, 1742. He graduated at Harvard College in 1760, and afterwards studied law with James Otis. In 1767 he removed to North Carolina and rose rapidly in his profession, standing at the head of the bar in that State. In the public career he was branded as a royalist, but soon gained a reputation for disinterested patriotism, and was advanced to many public offices. In 1773 he was elected to the Provincial Assembly of North Carolina, and in 1774 to the Continental Congress. He was re-elected in 1775 and 1776; in the latter year signing the Declaration. Like all the signers, Mr. Hooper became exceedingly obnoxious to the British, who sought every opportunity to molest him and his family. After the war had ceased, Mr. Hooper resumed the practice of his profession, and withdrew from public life. In 1786 he was appointed by Congress a judge of the Federal Court established for the adjudication of the dispute between Massachusetts and New York. He died in October, 1799, aged forty-eight years.

JOSEPH BEWES, of Quaker parentage, was born in Kingston, N. J., in 1730. After studying at Princeton College, he entered upon commercial life at Philadelphia. At the age of thirty years he removed to Edenton, N. C., and established himself in business, in which he amassed a large fortune. In 1767 he was elected to the Legislature of North Carolina and re-elected on successive terms. He was foremost in calling a Convention of the Colony for electing delegates to a General Congress—was chosen a representative in that body—and although attended with great pecuniary loss was a prominent member of the committee for drawing up the Declaration of Rights. He was re-elected to Congress in 1775 and 1776—voting for and signing the Declaration of Independence. In 1779 he again took his seat in Congress, remaining, however, but a few months. He died November 10th, 1779, in the fiftieth year of his age. His death occurred at Washington, and his funeral was largely attended by governmental dignitaries and other friends.

JOHN PENN was born in Carolina county, Virginia, May 17th, 1741. His early education was of a meagre sort, and not until he was eighteen years of age, did he enjoy the privilege of study. The celebrated Edmund Pendleton then offered him the free use of his library, and assisted him in his efforts to acquire knowledge. So industrious was Penn in intellectual pursuits that he soon entered upon a course of legal study, and at the age of twenty one was admitted to the bar. He possessed a strong natural genius and oratorical power, which, with close attention to the study of law, secured for him a prominent position in his profession. In 1774 he removed to South Carolina, and in 1775 was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, where he remained three successive years, signed the Declaration, and was very influential as a member. He was attracted with the declaration of his State in 1780 against the inroads of the British troops, performing the duty with great skill and credit. Mr. Penn retired from public life in 1787. His death occurred in September, 1788.

EDWARD RUTLEDGE was born in Charleston, S. C., in November, 1749. After receiving a good education, he commenced the study of law, and at the age of twenty entered as a student at the Inner Temple, London, the scene of the forensic efforts of such legal giants as Mansfield, Chatham and Camden. In 1772 he returned to Charleston, and was admitted to the bar the next year. At the age of twenty-five he was elected to the Continental Congress, and re-elected in 1775 and 1776. He was associated with Richard Henry Lee and John Adams in preparing a prefatory preamble and recommendation of Congress to the Colonies to form permanent governments, and also affixed his signature to the Declaration. In 1779 he served on a commission with Franklin and Adams to meet Lord Howe at Staten Island. Mr. Rutledge took up arms 1779, and the year following headed a corps of Artillery. In 1794 he was elected to the United States Senate, and in 1793 Governor of his native State. Mr. Rutledge died on the twenty-third of January, 1809.

THOMAS HAYWARD was born in St. Luke's parish, South Carolina, in 1746. He had every advantage in education, and on its completion entered upon a course of legal study. In 1766 he visited England, there finishing his studies, and on his return practiced his profession. From the first he espoused the patriotic cause, and promoted its advance. In 1775 was elected to the General Congress, and while a member, signed the Declaration. In 1776 he left Congress and accepted the appointment of Judge of the criminal and civil courts of South Carolina. While Judge he held a military commission and was a chief actor in the skirmish at Beaufort in 1780. In the skirmish he received a wound, which left its mark upon him through life. After the capture of Charleston, was taken prisoner by Sir Henry Clinton, and sent to St. Augustine, Florida, where he remained a year. On his release and return home, he resumed his seat on the bench, and continued to discharge the duties of that office until 1798. His death occurred in March 1800, aged sixty-three years.

THOMAS LYNCH, JR., was born in Prince George's parish, South Carolina, August 5th, 1749. At the age of thirteen, he was sent to England for an education, pursuing his studies there at Eton School and Cambridge University. On leaving College, he began the study of law in the law office of Longman. In 1772 he returned to South Carolina, and entered upon his profession. In 1773 he addressed an assembly of patriots convened at Charleston to consider the relations existing between the colonies and Britain. The people, by his eloquence and impressive display of devoted patriotism, at once elected him to many civil offices of trust, and in 1775 offered him a captain's commission in the first provincial regiment. The following year, succeeded his father in the General Congress, and signed the Declaration. Owing to ill health, he remained but a short time in Congress, and soon after sailed with his wife, in the hope of his recovery, for the West Indies. The vessel in which he sailed was supposed to have foundered at sea, and all on board perished.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON was born at Middleton Place, South Carolina, in 1743. At twelve years of age he was sent to Hackney School in England, at fourteen to a school in Westminster, and at eighteen to the University of Cambridge, where he graduated in 1765. After a short stay in England and two years traveling, he returned to his native country, but was not permanently. A year after he made a second tour of Europe, and returning, took his father's estate as a residence. But he was not long allowed the enjoyments of home and the pleasures which wealth and title being soon involved into public life and toils and strife. In 1775 he was appointed on the "Committee of Safety" in his State; in 1776 on a Committee to form a government for South Carolina, and the same year elected to the General Congress at Philadelphia. He continued in Congress until 1777, and was elected Governor of South Carolina the next year, which honor he declined. To the close of 1787 he represented his county in the State Legislature, and died January 1, 1788, aged forty-five years.

BURTON GWINNETT was born in England in 1752. He was engaged in business in Bristol until 1770, when he emigrated to South Carolina, and in 1772 to Georgia. He took an active interest in the American cause from the first, and subsequently became one of its warmest advocates. In 1774 he was elected to the Continental Congress, and re-elected the next year, when he signed the Declaration. In 1777 was chosen a member of the convention for forming a Federal Constitution, the chief outlines of which instrument are attributed to Mr. Gwinnett, who afterwards succeeded Mr. Rutledge as President of the Association, after the disarrangement of this body. Mr. Gwinnett aspired to the office of Brigadier General, but was defeated. The result was an alienation between Col. McIntosh, his rival, and himself. Mr. Gwinnett finally challenged his rival to a single combat. The parties met, shots were exchanged, both were wounded, and Mr. Gwinnett mortally. Thus died the subject of this sketch at the age of forty-five, in the vigor of his manhood and usefulness.

LYMAN HALL was born in Connecticut in 1721. He entered Yale College at the age of sixteen, and after graduating with the usual honors, commenced the study of medicine. Mr. Hall removed to South Carolina in 1752—immediately after concluding his medical studies—but the same year took up his permanent residence in Georgia, and entered at once upon a successful practice. He was among the first in his Colony who boldly denounced the home government, and for a long time stood almost alone in arousing the people to Revolutionary resistance. A large portion of the people manifested opposition at first to adopting these extreme measures. The people of the parish of St. John resolved to act independently, and in 1775, elected Dr. Hall a delegate to the General Congress. Although not an accredited delegate of a Colony, he took his seat, with the unanimous vote of Congress, and soon ranked among its prominent members. He continued most of the time in Congress until 1783, when he was elected Governor of his State. His death occurred the year following.

GEORGE WALTON was born in Frederick county, Virginia, in 1740. His early education was very limited, and at fourteen he was apprenticed to a carpenter. His master opposed him in his desires after knowledge, and only by the light of pine torches in the midnight hour could he find a time for study. But this time was well improved, and after finishing his legal studies in 1773, was admitted to his profession, in the Colony of Georgia, and in which he was eminently successful. In 1775 he was elected to the General Congress. Here he secured the confidence of his confederates, and was placed on several important committees, and also signed the Declaration. In 1778 he returned to Georgia and became colonel of a regiment. He entered the British lines at Savannah at the time of its siege, and was taken prisoner, but soon after released. In 1779 he was chosen Governor of his State, and in 1780 elected to Congress. After a few months stay he returned to Georgia, was again elected to the Governor and 1781 Senator in Congress. His death occurred February 24, 1804.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Sec. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States, and the electors in each State shall have the qualification requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature.

No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representative and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, the five-twelfths of all other persons. The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writts of Election to fill such vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Sec. 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one-third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise during the recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice-President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice-President, or when he shall exercise the office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States; but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

Sec. 4. The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Sec. 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their Judgment require secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of any question put in either House on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, or to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Sec. 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, bribery, or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States shall be a member of either House during his continuance in office.

Sec. 7. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their Journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of that House, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him; or, being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two-thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

Sec. 8. The Congress shall have the following powers:

To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

To establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

To establish post offices and post roads;

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations;

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To provide and maintain a navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasion;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by consent of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the Legislatures of the State in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards and other needful buildings;—and

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Sec. 9. The migration or importation of such persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

No capitation, or other direct tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration heretofore directed to be taken.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State. No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another; nor shall vessels bound to or from one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States; And no person holding any office of profit or trust under them shall, without the consent of Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind whatever, from any King, prince, or foreign State.

Sec. 10. No State shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

No State shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any State on imports or exports, shall be for the

use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress.

No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with a foreign power, or allow any war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. The Executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice-President, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows.

Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress; but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for President; and if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said House shall in like manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the Representatives from each State having one vote. A Quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice. In every case, after the choice of the President, the person having the greatest number of votes of the Electors shall be the Vice-President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the Senate shall choose from them by Ballot the Vice-President.

The Congress may determine the time of choosing the Electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice-President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability, both of the President and Vice-President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected; and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Sec. 2. The President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officers in each of the Executive Departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices; and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law; but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions, which shall expire at the end of their next session.

Sec. 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

Sec. 4. The President, Vice-President, and all Civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges both of the Supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior,

and shall, at stated times, receive for their services a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Sec. 2. The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority;—to all cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers, and Consuls;—to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction;—to controversies to which the United States shall be a party;—to controversies between two or more States;—between a State and citizens of another State;—between citizens of different States;—between citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States, and between a State, or the citizens thereof and foreign States, citizens, or subjects.

In all cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction; in all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, and with such exceptions and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the State where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State the trial shall be at such place or places as the Congress may by law have directed.

Sec. 3. Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. Full faith and credit shall be given in each State to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

Sec. 2. The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.

A person charged in any State with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another State, shall, on demand of the executive authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having jurisdiction of the crime. No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

Sec. 3. New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned, as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Sec. 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of Government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic violence.

ARTICLE VI.

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof; or by any two of the modes of ratification may be proposed by the Congress.—Provided, that no Amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth section of the first Article; and that no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

ARTICLE VII.

All debts contracted and engagements entered into before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States, under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby; anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

ARTICLE VIII.

The ratification of the Conventions of nine States shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the same.

DONE at Convention, by the unanimous consent of the States present, the seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth, in Witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

President and Deputy from Virginia.

WILLIAM JACKSON, Secretary.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.*

Articles, in addition to, and Amendment of, the Constitution of the United States of America, adopted pursuant to the Fifth Article of the Original Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE II.

A well-regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

ARTICLE III.

No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

ARTICLE IV.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE V.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

ARTICLE VI.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

ARTICLE VII.

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

ARTICLE VIII.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

ARTICLE IX.

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

ARTICLE X.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

ARTICLE XI.

The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another State, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign State.

ARTICLE XII.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves; they shall name in their ballot the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate:—The President of the Senate shall, in presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted;—The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately by ballot the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President, shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

*The first ten of the AMENDMENTS were proposed September 25, 1789, and ratified December 15, 1791; the eleventh, January 8, 1793; the twelfth, September 25, 1804.

NOTE.—THE CONSTITUTION was adopted on the 17th September, 1787, by the Convention appointed in pursuance of the Resolution of the Congress of the Confederation, of the 21st February, 1787, and ratified by the Conventions of the several States, as follows: Delaware, December 7th, 1787; Pennsylvania, December 12th, 1787; New Jersey, December 18th, 1787; Georgia, January 2d, 1788; Connecticut, January 9th, 1788; Massachusetts, February 6th, 1788; Maryland, April 28th, 1788; South Carolina, May 23d, 1788; New Hampshire, June 21st, 1788; Virginia, June 26th, 1788; New York, July 26th, 1788; North Carolina, Nov. 21st, 1789; Rhode Island, May 29th, 1790.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AS AMENDED AND ADOPTED BY CONGRESS.

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing, invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object, the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world:

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature; a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining, in the mean time, exposed to all the danger of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose, obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has combined, with others, to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us; For protecting, them by a mock trial, from punishment, for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states;

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

For imposing taxes on us without our consent;

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury;

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences;

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies;

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering, fundamentally, the powers of our governments;

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

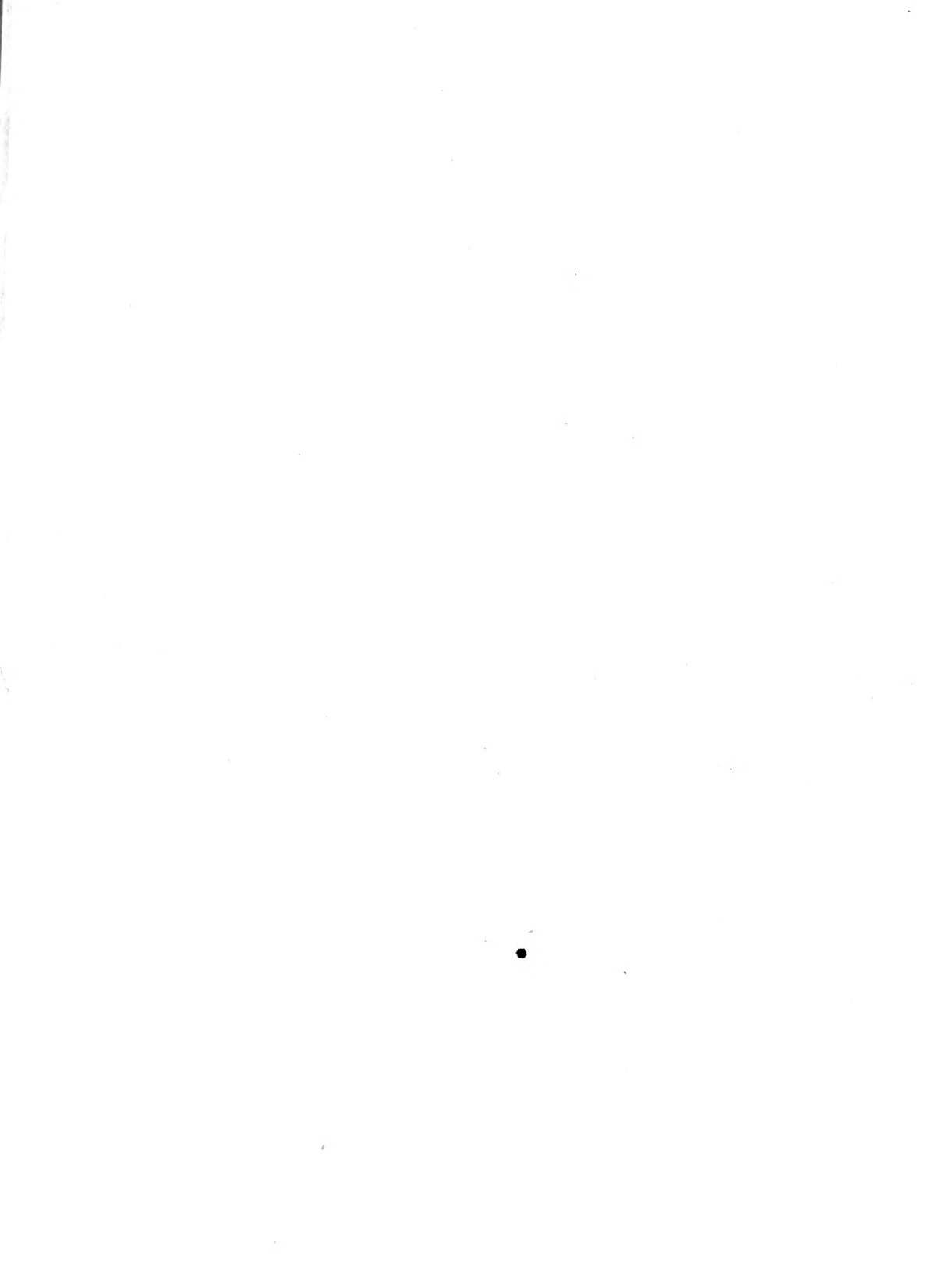
He has excited domestic insurrection among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction, of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

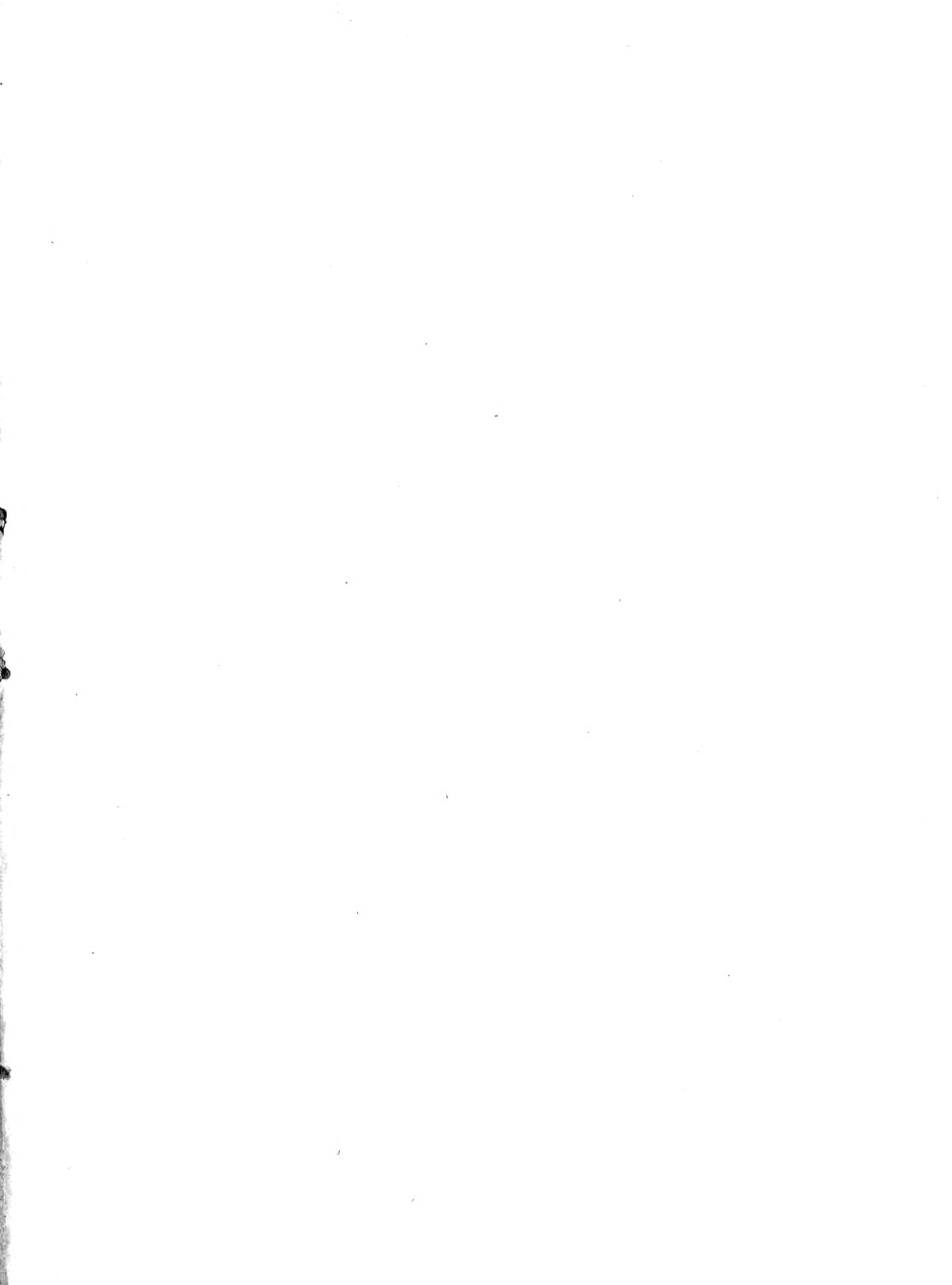
In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress, in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be ruler of a free people.

Now have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts made by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here.

We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war—in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as Free and Independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which Independent States may of right do. And, for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.







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